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WITH THE CORN BORER

Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

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Machinery

Stubble Beaters Useful this Fall and Winter.

Farmers of the infested area have been making good use of the stubble beater and tractor units lent to them by the Federal Government. Groups of farmers were responsible for the equipment, providing a competent operator and their own gas and oil. About 200 of these units have been busy in the field this fall and winter whenever the weather would permit and have done a good job of pulverizing the borer.

Equipment Overhauled

All machinery and equipment purchased for the clean-up campaign in 1927 is under cover and has received a thorough overhauling and reconditioning. The bulk of it is stored at Camp Perry, Ohio, where there are excellent facilities for repair work and storage. The rest of the machinery is stored at the regular supply stations at Elyria, Ohio; Howell, Michigan; Meadville, Pa.; and the Toledo, Ohio warehouses. It is planned to make this equipment available to the States conducting clean-up campaigns in the spring.

Address communications to Information Division, Corn-Borer Control, Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

From the Farm-Management Angle

Paul E. Johnston has been appointed corn-borer farm-management specialist to work with the extension agents in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana on farm-management problems arising from the corn-borer situation.

Meetings in the new clean-up counties of Ohio will be begun February 6. Later Mr. Johnston will conduct meetings in the new infested areas of Michigan and Indiana as arranged by the extension agents. At these meetings farmers will have a chance to hear how the most successful farmers have adapted their practices to the new conditions. They can get help and advice in keeping their farm accounts, studying their business, and comparing their standing with those most successfully meeting the situation.

A close study of farm accounts kept on a group of farms for a period of years in certain strategic areas with a compilation and analysis of the statistics obtained, is also a part of the plan.

Mr. Johnston comes from Illinois, where he has been farm-management specialist and research assistant for two years. He also has had several years of county agent experience in Illinois and knows the problems of the county agent.

While we are on the subject of statistics, here is a POEM, borrowed from the National Fertilizer Review.

"To him who in the love of statistics
Holds communion with her visible formulas
She speaks a various language."

INDIANS TAKE THE WARPATH

The Seneca Indians of the Cattaraugus Reservation, N. Y., are again taking up the active fight against the corn borer. J. Russell Hill, the young Seneca who so ably handled the work last spring, has again been appointed extension agent in corn-borer work and is beginning an active campaign to bring home to the Indian farmer the message of a clean clean-up for borer control.

THE BORER AT FARMERS' WEEK

In the Ohio Farmers' Week, the week of January 30, a whole day was devoted to borer troubles. Some of the speakers were T. H. Parks, extension entomologist; C. G. Williams, director of the experiment station; C. O. Reed, in charge of engineering and equipment, corn-borer control work; R. M. Salter, of the experiment station; and R. D. Barden, extension agricultural engineer.

In the Missouri Farmers' Week, the week of January 20, the insect was also recognized. The European corn borer as a probable factor in corn production in the Corn Belt was discussed by R. M. Salter of the Ohio Experiment Station.

MICHIGAN ON THE JOB

The Michigan Extension Service has scheduled 550 educational corn-borer meetings for this winter.

THE 1928 RESEARCH PROGRAM

New York and Pennsylvania have sent in their 1928 research programs for inclusion in the complete schedule of research work. The committee appointed at the January 3 conference under the chairmanship of G. A. Dean, Kansas Agricultural College, will assemble and correlate this material as soon as all reports are in, and it will then be made available in mimeographed form to anyone wishing a copy. W. H. Larrimer, Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., is assembling these reports for the committee, and State programs should be sent to him.

CONGRESS HEARS CORN-BORER COMPLAINTS

Before the Committee on Agriculture of the House, last week, spokesmen from Michigan and Ohio voiced their objections to any further appropriations of Federal funds for corn-borer control. Ten delegates from counties in western Ohio and southern Michigan were present to protest any further control work.

A WORD TO THE WISE

from Control Headquarters

At this season of the year, when the ground is frozen and the stalks are brittle, is the best time to cut or to break off standing cornstalks in fields infested by the European corn borer.

The stalks may be cut or broken off at the ground level by any one of several methods. Many farmers use an old railroad rail, or a heavy pole, or a heavy timber with sharp edges for this purpose. A heavy planker, or a float, or a stubble shaver is also effective under some circumstances.

Whatever method is used, all the stalks should be cut off or broken off at the ground level. Unless a clean job is done, the raking and burning process later on will be greatly handicapped, and hand-picking may be necessary in order to complete the job.

Under some weather conditions the cutting or breaking-off job can be done to best advantage during the very early morning hours when the stalks are brittle and snap off like pipestems.

IN CANADA

The Corn Borer Act in Operation

The corn-borer act was put into operation in Canada for the first time in the fall of 1926, eight counties (Essex, Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford, Norfolk, and Prince Edward) being included under the requirements of its regulations.

The chief difficulties encountered the first year in enforcing the act, said Lawton Caesar, Provincial Entomologist for Ontario, Canada, at a talk given before the members attending the 64th annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, were: (1) Excessive wet weather hindered fall plowing in 1926. (2) Some farmers failed to realize that the act was really going to be enforced and consequently were careless about complying with requirements. (3) Poor plowing on fields caused stubble to be dragged to surface when cultivation or sowing took place. (4) The option of disking instead of plowing in certain counties led to difficulties in gathering debris where stubble was long and did not break off or pull up with the disk. (5) The regulations failed to make plain whether the inspector could compel a man to pick off and burn the dragged-up stubble or other debris before May 20. This has since been remedied by an order-in-council which requires that such stubble and debris be gathered and burned within 10 days after it is dragged up or the crop is sown. (6) Persons enforcing regulations had not had enough experience to know the simplest and the quickest way of cleaning up a field of standing corn or long stubble so as to make a thorough job of plowing, and where stubble was dragged up the best method of gathering it. (7) The inexperience of inspectors in legal matters caused them to issue too many warnings instead of instituting prosecution proceedings.

It is conservatively estimated that there was a decrease of 50 per cent in the number of corn borers in Essex and Kent Counties, 20 per cent in Elgin, 30 per cent in Norfolk, and 20 per cent in Oxford. In Lambton County there was an increase of at least 33 per cent, in Middlesex an increase of probably 25 per cent, and in Prince Edward an increase of probably 30 per cent.

Because of the increase and spread of the borer, the provisions of the act have now been made operative in all that part of Ontario south of a line from Goderich to about 8 miles north of Toronto and also in an area about 6 miles wide all along Lake Ontario from Toronto to the eastern boundary of Hastings.

The 1927 Infestation

In a talk given by W. N. Keenan, division of foreign pests suppression, Ottawa, before members of the Entomological Society of Ontario, he stated that the 1927 scouting reports in Canada disclose that the most eastern record of corn-borer findings was near the village of Batiscan on the St. Lawrence River in Champlain County, Quebec; the most northern, at New Liskeard in the District of Timiskaming; and the most western in the township of St. Joseph in St. Joseph's Island, Algoma District, which is approximately 15 miles east of the city of Sault Ste. Marie. The European corn borer is, therefore, distributed, from East to West, throughout a distance of 575 miles in the province of Ontario and Quebec and from North to South over a distance of 385 miles.

A review of the 1927 situation in relation to those of the last four years, indicates that the European corn borer will continue to spread to new districts and that in a great part of the territory, as yet lightly infested, it threatens to increase in abundance to a point where it will be of economic importance. Every indication points to the absolute necessity of a most careful application of control methods.

The Story of the Canadian Farmer

B. R. Proulx, assistant in corn-borer information in Michigan, made a trip into Canada recently and obtained a number of stories from Canadian farmers on how they are managing their farms under corn-borer conditions. Two of these stories in brief form are as follows:

REDUCES INCOME A. S. Maynard, Chatham, Ontario, estimates that his income has been reduced $700 per year by the borer. At one time he planned to get $1,000 from the sale of seed corn. Last year he got $261. He used to plant 30 acres of corn each year, but in 1927 he planted 5 acres. Eight acres of tobacco and more wheat have taken the place of corn on his farm.

CHANGES FARMING SYSTEM The corn borer has changed the system of farming of Joe Srigley, Ontario, Canada. Hogs meant income to him and he sold as much as $1,500 worth of hogs per year. The corn borer has decreased his corn acreage and the hogs with it, until he is virtually out of the hog business. He planted 4 acres of corn in 1927 in comparison with 30 acres, his former normal acreage.

Mr. Srigley has now gone into the poultry and dairy business, keeping a flock of 750 chickens and 10 dairy cows. He has put up a new poultry house, 30 by 80 feet, and has changed other buildings into suitable housing quarters for the flock. He is 20 miles from Windsor, a market which good roads make readily accessible. This has enabled him to sell his own products and to build up a high-class trade.